

# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

November 2007

(No: 363)



Minister: Rev Mark J Gilborson (01392 256716)



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

[www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk)

# A Message From The Minister

We have a new member at Whipton Lane, a regular visitor at the manse, might I even suggest resident. He or it may be she stands about ten inches high when on his back legs, is covered in a light grey fur and has a fascination with hazel nuts! The squirrel (yes you guessed it!), that used to live in the park, seems to have decided that our back garden with its abundant supply of nuts is a better place to hang out, or whatever it is that squirrels do.

It seems our supply of nuts is not so abundant this year and I think the reason is twofold: less nuts fell to the ground and many of them that did are now buried, one inch below the ground in a thousand fantastic locations in our lawn. What amazes me is the intense look of excitement and exhilaration upon the squirrels face when he digs around and then discovers one of the many nuts that he buried earlier. I don't know if he has a poor memory. Has buried too many nuts to remember or perhaps it may be a fellow squirrel come to steal from number one squirrel's hoard!

Whichever there does seem to be a genuine look of excitement upon the squirrel's face as it discovers its treasure.

More than twenty boxes were delivered to more than twenty homes in the Wonford area, each stuffed with, pasta, tins, soup, chocolate etc. - a variety of good things. Collected at harvest and given away, shared as a sign of love and as part of our calling to bless others as we have been blessed by God. Okay those boxes may not transform lives but they might make them better, easier, those boxes might not transform the recipients' views of the church but they might be a start. Jesus often met physical needs before meeting spiritual ones; actually he seems to have seen that the two went hand in hand.

I hope that this is a start for us, planting a seed (or a hazelnut!), sharing our Good News in tangible ways; yes I hope we do this at next harvest, what about Christmas and Easter; what about exploring new, different and exciting ways of being the church in Wonford?

Akin to my squirrel I hope that those who received the packages we planted in their homes did so with some excitement, feeding body and soul, someone cares, 'God cares'.

In Christ **Mark Gilborson**

# Dates For November

## Birthdays - have a great birthday!!

2nd	Blondell Lilley
4th	Lisa Thomas
7th	Mark Gilborson
14th	Melanie Westcott
16th	Paul Smith
19th	Donald Davey
23rd	Megan Lindsay
25th	Rose Smith
27th	India Gilborson & Martin Lloyd
29th	Paul Violet



## Flowers

4th	Lisa Thomas
11th	John Turner
18th	Sue Keatt
25th	Sylvia & Tom



## Coffee

4th	Susan & Martin
11th	Alison & Tony
18th	Sue & Claire
25th	Jenny Harrington & Barbara Jackson



## Home Group Meetings in November

Home group will now meet alternate Tuesdays.

13th	8.00 p.m.	Meet at Bill and Monika's. Studying ' <b>Jesus at the Centre</b> ' led by Nesy Holt
27th	8.00 p.m.	Meet at Rose and Paul Smith's. Studying ' <b>Jesus at the Centre</b> ' led by David Westcott.

## Thursday Fellowship Dates for November

- 1st 7.30 p.m. Church Prayer meeting in the lounge. Everyone is welcome.
- 8th 10.30 a.m. Coffee, Chat and Epilogue. Please feel free to call in; you will be made very welcome. Tea or water is available if you don't like coffee.
- 15th 2.00 p.m. Bible Study led by Rev Mark Gilborson. This is open to all. The present series is on Psalms and this meeting will look at Psalm 6 - 'Praying our Tears'. This meeting finishes at 3.00 p.m. to enable people to meet children from school.
- 22nd 10.30 a.m. Coffee, Chat and Epilogue. Please feel free to call in; you will be made very welcome. Tea or water is available if you don't like coffee.
- 29th 'Christians Together in Heavitree' meeting at Wonford - separate details available.

## Quiz Night at The Mint

This will take place on Saturday 10th November 2007 at The Mint Methodist Church. There is a £5 per head fee that covers the quiz and refreshments. See the church noticeboard for further details or contact Rev Andrew Sails or Liz Sails on 01392 275070.



## NCH Music Plus Concert



This takes place at St Thomas Methodist Church on Friday 16th November 2007 starting at 7.30 p.m. Tickets at £5 each are available from Vanessa Welch and covers light refreshments during the interval.

## Harvest Hampers

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated items of food for the harvest hampers. We were able to make up 21 hampers for local families! They were delivered to the Chestnut Children's Centre on Monday 8th October and the centre manager was amazed at your generosity.

**Monika Noronha**

## **“I’m dreaming of a Green Christmas”**

A Craft Day with a Peruvian theme. Saturday 3rd November 2007, 10.30a.m. to 3.00p.m. at Crediton Methodist Church.

Workshops (for all ages), lunch provided. Celebrate Christmas simply & sustainably, topped & tailed with café church.

All welcome. Donations.

## **Open Evenings for all Local Christians**

The next series of open evenings for all local Christians is about to start. This time we are the hosts, so let’s give a warm welcome to the Es, the URs, the RCs and the As

Thursday 29th November 2007 at 7.30p.m. Further details from Geoff Bowstead or John Turner

## **Plymouth & Exeter District Training Calendar 2007/8**

Below is a list of the district training courses for November 2007.

For details of any course or event contact Keith Elliott or, where given, the named contact person.

Further details about how to book a place on one of these courses is available on the church noticeboard.

### **November Training Courses**

- 3rd**            **District Prayer Day** – Resourcing our Prayer Life  
Venue - Fairplace Church, Okehampton. 10a.m. - 3.30p.m.
- 6th**            **Ann Morisy** - Author of “Beyond the Good Samaritan” and  
“Journeying Out” speaks on Local Mission: Connecting with  
your Community.  
Venue - Exeter Cathedral (The Chapter House)  
10.30a.m. - 3.00p.m.
- 14th**          **Exploring Prayer and Spirituality**  
Venue – Buckfastleigh. 10.30a.m. to 4p.m.  
Contact – Keith Elliott (E)

- 17th** From here to there - message beyond the box –  
**‘The Mission and Culture’**. A joint day for local preachers  
and lay readers led by Canon Roger Medley, Bath and Wells  
Diocesan Missioner.  
Venue - St John and St. Francis C of E School, Bridgwater.  
10a.m. - 3p.m.  
Contact – Keith Elliott (E)
- 22nd** **Bible Study Day** - Preaching on the Gospel of St. Matthew –  
led by Louise Lawrence from Exeter University.  
Venue – Exeter University, SWMTC Library. 10a.m. - 1p.m.  
with a light lunch. Contact – Keith Elliott (E)
- 24th** **District Prayer Day** – Resourcing our Prayer Life -  
Venue - Wellington Methodist Church. 10a.m. - 3.30p.m.

Courses marked with an ‘(E)’ are being jointly run with the Diocese of Exeter or Diocese of Bath and Wells.

## **Hope 2008**

Plans for Hope 2008 in Exeter are taking shape. Events such as the New Year’s Eve Prayer Night at the Cathedral, the Walk of Witness for all churches of the city on Good Friday with drama and street theatre, the Youth Social Action project in April, The Big Cream Tea ..... all sorts of initiatives across the city. We hope to be part of these events.

Here at Wonford we need to be urgently considering and planning what we can and should do in our community to meet needs in practical ways and to share the riches of our faith.

If you would like to be part of a group to take this forward, please see Joan Wragg (Tel 01392 466129). It will be particularly important to have people from the Wonford neighbourhood.

## **Autumn Theme Series: Methodist Essentials (A Reminder)**

Here's something to watch out for. Sunday October 28<sup>th</sup> sees the start of another of our Sunday theme series. This one will run most mornings and evenings from late October through November. It's designed to give us a reminder of some of the distinctive features and doctrines of the Methodist movement as they originated and have developed. We hope you enjoy it. Here's the full list of dates, preachers and topics.

Oct 28th	10.00 a.m.	"A Church with Four Alls and for All" Tony Wragg
Nov 4th	6.30 p.m.	"A Church Rooted in Scripture" Joan Wragg
Nov 11th	10.00 a.m.	"A Church Affirming Stewardship" Mark Gilborson
Nov 11th	6.30 p.m.	"A Church Born in Song" Geoff Bowstead and Mark Gilborson (S)
Nov 18th	10.00 a.m.	"A Church with Evolving Methods" Doreen Sparey-Delacassa
Nov 18th	6.30 p.m.	"A Church Earthed in Renewal" Adrian Dawe
Nov 25th	10.00 a.m.	"A Church Based in Holiness" Mark Gilborson (S)
Nov 25th	6.30 p.m.	"A Church with No Borders" Pat Lowans

You will notice that we have two visitors. Doreen Sparey-Delacassa is now Evangelism Enabler in the Cornwall District. She will also be doing a post lunch Workshop on outreach thinking. Adrian Dawe is a local preacher in the Buckfastleigh Circuit and a member of the S.W. committee of MET (Methodist Evangelicals Together - the new name for Headway).

## **Prayer Focus for November**

***“Now all of you together are Christ’s body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it”***

*(1 Corinthians 12 v27 - New Living Bible version)*

### **Week Beginning Sunday 4th**

***“Worship is at the heart of our church”***

Please pray for our ministers and local preachers as they lead worship; that as they bless us we will likewise bless them with our encouragement and support.

Pray also for our local preachers in training, Monica, Anna and Jon, that God will anoint them with wisdom and diligence, the gift of evangelism and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Give thanks to God for the work and vision of our Worship Team as they plan services through the coming year, and for the work that has gone into the Methodist Emphases Theme series which is running this month.

### **Week Beginning Sunday 11th - Remembrance Sunday**

***“We’ve got a problem. Nearly half of the planet lives on less than £1 per day. But God has an equally epic solution: the church. Us.”***

We are asked to be part of a miracle; to pray for justice for a world devastated by poverty. Please pray with the universal church during Global Poverty Prayer Week (12th - 18th)

Pray also for people of vision as the church forms a new ‘Youth Council’ this week. Ask God to bless and multiply the wide range of youth work here and to encourage the youngsters attending the Methodist Youth Conference in Cardiff this week.

Thank God for the many lives sacrificed in two world wars and in the many conflicts past and current - “We will remember them”.

### **Week Beginning Sunday 18th - Prisons Week**

Please join with the church worldwide as it prays in support of the persecuted church. Raise up before God all those who are imprisoned,

tortured are martyred for their faith. Pray for the strength and the sureness of God's presence with all who do not have the freedom to worship the Lord Jesus publicly.

This is also Prisons Week, so please pray for God to meet with those behind bars and to support their partners and children as they cope on their own. Pray also that He will enable and encourage chaplains and prison staff in the demanding work that they do.

Thank God for the work of Wonford Community Action Group as it meets this week. The Regeneration Scheme has run its course, but the community goes from strength to strength. Praise God for the windows of opportunity that are opened to us through this work.

### **Week Beginning Sunday 25th**

Please pray for Christians Together in Heavitree (CTH) as they hold their open evening in our church this week.

Pray that the Lord will bless and encourage them as they meet to fulfill the vision of working together in unity. Pray also for guidance as they seek to build links with the other groups of "Christians Together" in Exeter.

### **The Prayer Team**

### **Prayer Link**

***"I urge you, brothers (and sisters), by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my strength by praying to God for me".***

(Romans 15 v30 - NIV)

Our Church Prayer Phone Link will be starting on Sunday 4th November 2007. Please do contact the Prayer Team if you would like to join the 19 people already in the link.

Should you have a prayer need and would like to place it on the Phone Link, please contact Sarah Taylor on 01392 424334. Sarah will then pass your request onto two others, who will in turn pass it on down the Link. Phone calls may be anonymous if requested and all calls will remain confidential, passed on exactly as they are given.

Two members of the Prayer Team will be available in the Guest Room for any prayer needs after Sunday morning services. If you would like to join the Prayer Team please let us know.

## **The Prayer Team**

### **“Making Connections” Being an effective outgoing contemporary church**

A seminar/workshop at 1.15p.m. on Sunday 18th November 2007 with Revd Doreen Sparey-Delacassa

Doreen is Methodist District Evangelism Enabler for Cornwall. She will be preaching at our morning service at 10a.m. We will all have a Bring and Share lunch at 12 noon and start the seminar at 1.15p.m. Finishing time 3p.m.

Children will be entertained during the seminar time.

**Don't miss it!**

## **Information from the Circuit Manse Secretary**

During the recent circuit review meeting at Topsham, it became clear that many of our members knew very little about the workings of our circuit, so I thought friends may be interested to learn a little of my job. As ministers move churches at regular intervals, it would be unrealistic for them to own their own properties and so most live in church-owned manses.

As manse secretary, it is my job to ensure the care and fabric of the manses so that the ministers can devote their time to their ministry. Also to ensure that the circuit money (your money) is invested wisely.

We have five manses in the Exeter circuit - one for Sidwell Street (Andrew Brazier) at Aldrin Road, one for The Mint (Andrew Sails) at Sweetbrier Lane, one for St. Thomas (David Easton) at Dunsford Road and one at Crediton (Barbara Calvert). The manse at Wonford (Mark Gilborson) is owned by a charitable trust, for the living purposes of the

minister at Wonford but is maintained by the circuit, under the terms of the lease.

My budget for the maintenance and upgrading of the five manses is fixed at the Circuit meeting and currently stands at £14,000 for the present year. All details of expenditure can be found in the Circuit treasurer's annual accounts and will be available in Sept/October.

Every five years, the properties are inspected by a chartered surveyor and electrician (the quinquennial inspection) to make sure all the properties are safe and sound and to advise on any problems. Any electrical work carried out now has to be certificated and annual safety checks carried out on all gas fires and boilers.

This year two ministers have moved away. David Laidler has retired and Andrew Brazier (a probationer minister) with his wife Ruth and two children have moved into Aldrin Road. David Easton, our new superintendent, with his wife Joan and extended family have moved into the manse at Dunsford Road. In the week of the "change over" there is quite a lot of redecoration and upgrading to be done at each of the manses to ensure the incoming ministers come to a comfortable home and do not have to face too much upheaval during their ministry. They and their families are consulted about colour schemes and furnishings and as far as is practical we try to provide what they wish. They in turn are responsible for the cleanliness of the property and for keeping the garden tidy.

My time (6 years) as manse secretary ends next year - if anyone feels they would like to do this job, I am sure the circuit stewards would be pleased to hear from you. It is a great privilege to share in a small way in the home life of our ministers. It is very interesting, sometimes fun, often hectic but very enjoyable. I feel a car is necessary as sometimes there is quite a lot of running around but of course all expenses are refunded.

I hope that we in the Exeter Circuit provide comfortable, safe, attractive homes for our ministers and their families, within the available finance.

**Gill Cook (Manse Secretary).**

## Advance Notice of Some December Events

### Girls' Brigade Christingle

This will take place on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007 starting at 7.00 p.m. The theme is "Angels Up High" Everyone is welcome.

There will be Christingle oranges for the children and refreshments afterwards. Please come along and join in the fun!

***Anna, Barbara, Pat, Claire, Elaine and all of the girls***

### Brownies Christmas Story

This will take place on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007 where the Brownies will be doing a play and other entertainment such as singing. They will be joined by a really good choir coming from Beacon Heath. There will be cakes teas and coffees for sell and a few games and bric a brac stalls. The night will start at 6.00p.m. and we go on till about 8.00p.m. Please can you plug this for us as we would love everyone to come and join us.

***Joanna Ireland (Brown Owl) (District Commissioner - Heavitree)***

## Bible Cryptic Crossword - Solution from October

B	U	R	N	I	N	G	B	U	S	H
O		E		N			E		Y	
R	O	A	S	T		P	E	A	R	L
D		P		E	A	R	S		I	
E	V	E		R		I			A	
R		D	E	P	O	S	E	D		F
	W			R		O		E	L	I
	A		S	E	E	N		F		L
E	X	A	L	T		E	L	E	C	T
	E		I			R		N		H
U	N	A	D	V	I	S	E	D	L	Y

## November Puzzle - Books of the Bible

Each letter is represented by a different number. Can you work out the code and complete the puzzle?

22	1	7	11	6	16		22	26	26	13	15	22	A	17	11
13		6		10		11		13		6		12	P		1
4	7	16	2	13	7	16	11	16		24	7	15	R	11	4
7		13		6		17		17		15		7			11
11	19	15	22		26	3	15	10	6	7	26	1	11	16	
6		22		9		11		25		11					17
26	10	6	20	13	11	15		16	7	6	2	11	15		
11		26		1						4		14			16
	5	11	1	1	11	4		26	10	1	1	11	26	17	
21				4		11		3		5		26			15
22	12	12	15	10	22	26	3	11	4		8	13	4	11	
1		11		19		1		11		23		17			6
13	6	17	7	11		22	6	16	18	11	15	7	6	2	
11		11		15		15		11		11		21			17
16	17	15	11	16	16	11	4		16	12	11	11	26	3	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	P	13
14	R	16	17	18	19	20	21	A	23	24	25	26	

### Some Quotes

“Yesterday is gone and tomorrow is not here; now is the best time to worship God in Spirit and in Truth”.

“God never gives us more than we can handle, He just pushes our limits so that we can handle the blessing that He has in store for us”.

## Anagrams - Books of the Bible

seesign

hemwatt

usedox

visitclue

nailed

nominaltaste

violentera

lastagain

hazephina

asheepsin

onmars

moodytenure

hobaida

ijeerham

hemplion

ashoe

tileaccesses

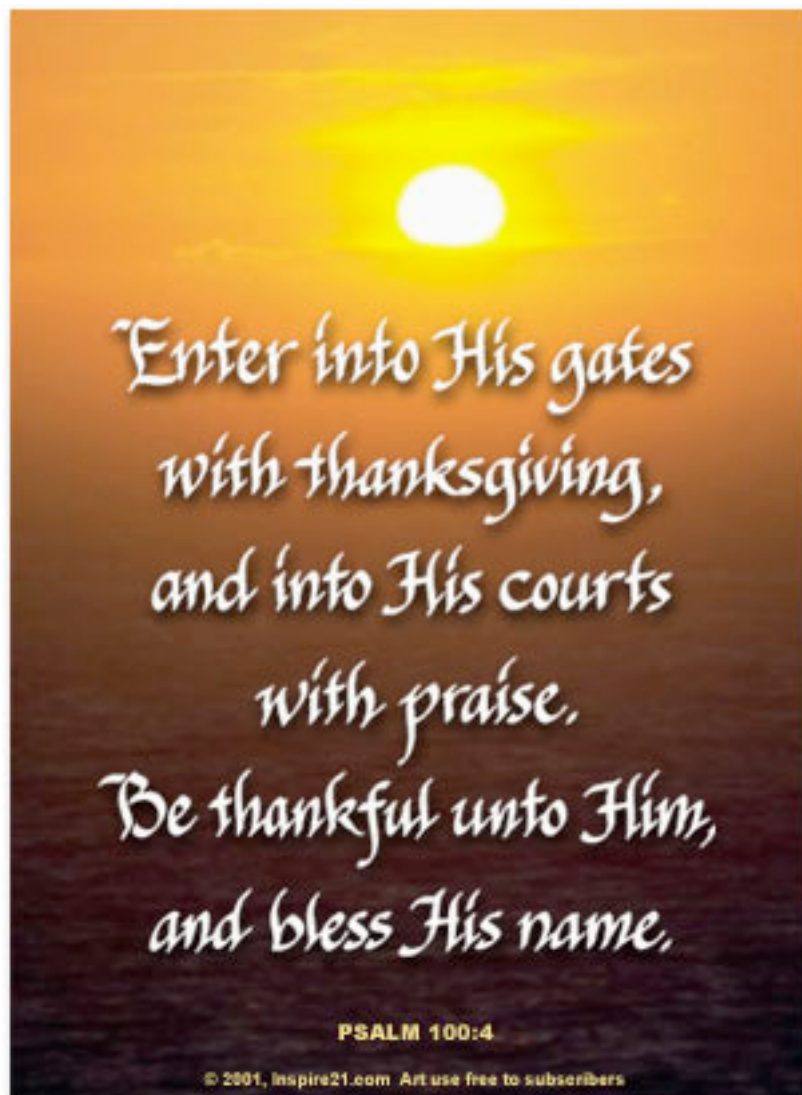
beshrew

socialsons

shipinpipal

human

chairhaze



## Dates For Your Diary

### November 2007

Thurs 1st	7.30 p.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting
Fri 4th	7.30 p.m.	Godspell - St Thomas MC Gospel Choir **
Sat 3rd	10.00 a.m.	'Resourcing our Prayer Life' ** Fairplace MC, Okehampton
	10.30 a.m.	Christmas Craft Fair - Crediton MC **
Sun 4th	10.00 a.m.	Methodist Homes Sunday All-Age with Ian Phillips
	6.30 p.m.	Joan Wragg - Methodist Emphases - 2 **
Sat 10th		Quiz Night at The Mint **
Sun 11th	10.00 a.m.	Remembrance Sunday - Rev Mark Gilborson Methodist Emphases - 3 **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Mark Gilborson & Geoff Bowstead Methodist Emphases - 4 ** + Lord's Supper
Thurs 15th	2.00 p.m.	Minister's Bible Study, Psalm 6 - Tears **
Sun 18th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Doreen Sparey-Delacassa Methodist Emphases - 5 **
	12.00 p.m.	Bring & Share Lunch
	1.00 p.m.	Evangelism Workshop
	6.30 p.m.	Adrian Dawe - Methodist Emphases - 6 **
Thurs 22nd	7.30 p.m.	Pastoral Team
Sun 25th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Mark Gilborson. Methodist Emphases - 7** + Lord's Supper
	6.30 p.m.	Pat Lowans - Methodist Emphases - 8 **
Mon 26th	7.30 p.m.	Special Circuit Meeting at St Thomas MC.
Thurs 29th	7.30 p.m.	'Christians Together in Heavitree' Open Evening at Wonford MC.

### December 2007

Sun 2nd	10.00 a.m.	Advent Sunday - All Age Rev Mark Gilborson
	4.00 p.m.	Advent Carol Service at Heavitree URC **
Mon 3rd	7.00 p.m.	Girls' Brigade Christingle **
Tues 4th	6.00 p.m.	Brownies Christmas Entertainment **
Thurs 6th	7.30 p.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting
Sat 8th	10.00 a.m.	Day of Reflection - Rev Mark Bate **

*\*\*For more information see a separate item in this newsletter, or look on the noticeboard for a poster and/or the full District and Diocese Training programme.*

## Weekly Activities

### Sunday

10.00 a.m. Morning Service and Young Church  
*(1st Sunday in each month is All-Age Worship)*  
6.30 p.m. Evening Service  
*(2nd Sunday in each month is Prayer & Praise)*

### Monday

2.45 p.m. Monday House Fellowship (68 Hoker Road)  
*(See Beryl Violet for details)*  
5.45 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. Girls' Brigade **\*A\***

### Tuesday

10.00 a.m. Men's Coffee and Games Morning  
6.00 p.m. Brownies  
8.00 p.m. Home Group  
*(2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month -  
see Sharon Gilborson for details)*

### Wednesday

9.15 a.m. Prayers in the Quiet Room  
7.30 p.m. Senior Youth Club (11+ Year Old) **\*A\***

### Thursday

7.30 p.m. Church Fellowship  
*(1st Thursday in each month is a Prayer Meeting, the  
3rd is a Bible Study at 2.00 p.m. The 2nd and 4th are coffee mornings  
starting at 10.30 a.m.)*

### Friday

9.30 a.m. Friday Toddlers Group **\*A\***

To be sure these take place see Dates to Note or the Notice Board  
( **\*A\*** = No meeting during school holiday)

The deadline for items for the Dec 07/Jan 08 Newsletter will be Sunday 18th November 2007. There is no guarantee of inclusion, but they may be given to: **Andrew Jackson - 19 Hills Orchard, Martock, Somerset. TA12 6DF.**  
Tel: 01935 826072 or e-mailed to [andrew.m.jackson@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.m.jackson@btinternet.com)